Darul Sunnah - ISIS – A derivative of SALAFISM

By Ali Asghar

According to many people, Salafism/Wahabism is an extremist ideology created in order to terrorise the Aqeedah of mainstream muslims as well as to invoke radicalism within Islam. As well as this, the aim of Salafism is to promote controversial beliefs to confuse and baffle the youth into being intense and manipulating them to have an incorrect understanding of Jihad.

Whether we like it or not, the savage terrorist group ISIS and its sisters, such as Al-Qaeda, associate themselves with Islam. The heinous acts of terrorism that they perpetrate are supposedly done in the name of Islam. We can sit down and claim all day long that the savagery, bloodshed, injustice, wrongdoing and all other inhumane acts they commit not only have nothing to do with Islam but are also condemned in Islam yet the fact remains is that the youth who are the lifeline of these organizations are mostly the children of Muslims.

If we want to put an end to losing our children to these terrorist organizations, we must be honest with ourselves and ask the question: Where have we gone wrong? What ideology among Muslims is responsible for resulting in a generation that is so violent, careless, mindless and savage? It turns out that two of the renowned Saudi Scholars have already responded to this question and I wanted to share their answers with the English speaking reader. It is refreshing to see that the Saudi Scholars are openly talking about this; for the realization of the problem can be half of the solution.

Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Abdul Wahhab (1703 – 22 June 1792) was a religious cult leader in Central Arabia from a place called Najd. He was the founder of modern day salafism. However, Salafis like to claim that ‘wahabis’ is a colloquial term despite

the fact their leader was called this. He was a very controversial individual who liked opposing every single Islamic figure during that time. He rejected many common Muslim practises because he regarded them either to be a religious innovation (bidah) or polytheism (shirk).

The reason Salafism spread like wildfire was thanks to the Saudi Arabian government funding publication and awareness. The reason for this was Ibn Abdul Wahhab's pact with Muhammad bin Saud (founder of Saudi Arabia) helped to establish the Emirate of Diriyah, the first Saudi state. Thus began a dynastic alliance and power sharing arrangement between the two families which continue even today in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As you can see this ideology was setup as a power-hungry cult. The 'Al ash-Sheikh', Saudi Arabia's leading religious family, are the descendents of Ibn Abdul Wahhab, and have historically lead the scholars in the Saudi state, dominating the state's clerical institutions.

Muhammad bin Saud (d. 1765)

He is also known as Ibn Saud and was the ameer of the Diriyah and is considered the founder of the first Saudi state and the Saudi dynasty, which are technically named for his father – Saud ibn Muhammad ibn Muqrin (died 1725). He was an ambitious desert warrior.

Juhayman al Utaybi (1935-1980)

He is famous for leading the two week siege of the grand mosque of Makkah in 1979. Al-Utaybi was a leader of the Salafi society for commanding right and forbidding wrong. This group began in Medina in the mid-1960s. Initially supported by senior Saudi scholars, the groups increasingly uncompromising

stances and iconoclastic worship practices eventually generated conflict with the scholarly establishment.

In the late 1970s, al-Utaybi's faction of the society rejected the Saudi state and came to believe that one of its own members was the Mahdi. This belief inspired its uprising in Makkah. Al-Utaybi's ideas directly influenced ISIS.

Hamad bin Atiq (1812/1884)

This scholar from present-day Saudi Arabia epitomised a school of thought within nineteenth-century Wahhabism that rejected any interaction between those considered to be true muslims and outsiders. This exclusive conception of Muslim identity influenced the thought of Al-Utayi and the actions of ISIS.

The majority of the world's salafis are from Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia. They are now the fastest growing group in North America and the United Kingdom. A full 46.87% of Qataris and 44.8% of Emiratis are Salafis, while 5.7% of Bahrainis are Salafis and 2.17% of Kuwaitis are Salafis.

Only 22.9% of Saudis are Salafis thus making them the 'dominant minority' in Saudi Arabia. There are 4 million Saudi Salafis who are concentrated in Najd. They all originated from here.

Prominent Salafi Saudi Scholars are confessing the link between ISIS and Salafism.

Dr Adil Al-Kalbaani (the first black Imam of Masjid-Al-Haram Makkah) admits the link in an interview:

This is a partial transcript of an interview with Dr Adil Al Kalbaani:

Journalist: You say that ISIS is a byproduct of Salafism?

Al-Kalbani: Indeed.

Journalist: How so?

Al-Kalbani: Look! Some of our brothers claim that ISIS was established by various intelligence organisations. In fact, intelligence services do not establish new ideologies but they take advantage of existing {suitable} ones. The ideology of ISIS is the ideology of Salafism. ISIS justifies its way or methodology using our books (SALAFISM). That is why you will find that most of our Salafi Brothers who criticise ISIS, only criticise their application, not their ideology. We must refute their ideology as well (but we agree with them.) Take for example the case of an apostate. We must make it clear who an apostate is, and who has the right to judge and apply the law etc. Once again, most of us criticise their savage ways of killing and bloodshed because it ruins our reputation in front of the other nations. What this means is that if they applied their ideology in a way that did not cause embarrassment to us Muslims, we would be at ease with ISIS. YES, once again, ISIS is a by-product of Salafi Teachings. It is true that there may be [foreign] intelligence services that exploit them, pave the way for them, support them with weaponry and make it easy for them to become who they are now. But they exploit what already exists in our Salafi Books in print or circulation today. There are those amongst us who adapted these ways that are present in our books but they don’t come out and always express it openly. In fact, because of some specific laws, we have seen some journalists assassinated. These were in fact Salafi fatwas and no other.

Furthermore, The Salafi Preacher Adnaan Al-arur praises ISIS and affirms Kalbani's views. Al Arur says: "Ninety nine percent of our brother in ISIS are believers, Muslims, sincere people (mukhlisoon), truthful people (sadiqoon), be it inside or outside Syria, and they are to defend Islam."

Another famous Salafi scholar Dr Al-Ouni has undertaken an interview in which he confirms ISIS being a derivative of Salafism.

For a leading Salafi Imam to acknowledge the fact that Salafism caused ISIS just goes to show how extreme their views are. Moreover, Adil Kalbaani was the same person who classed suicide bombing as martyrdom.

May Allah protect us from this fitna.